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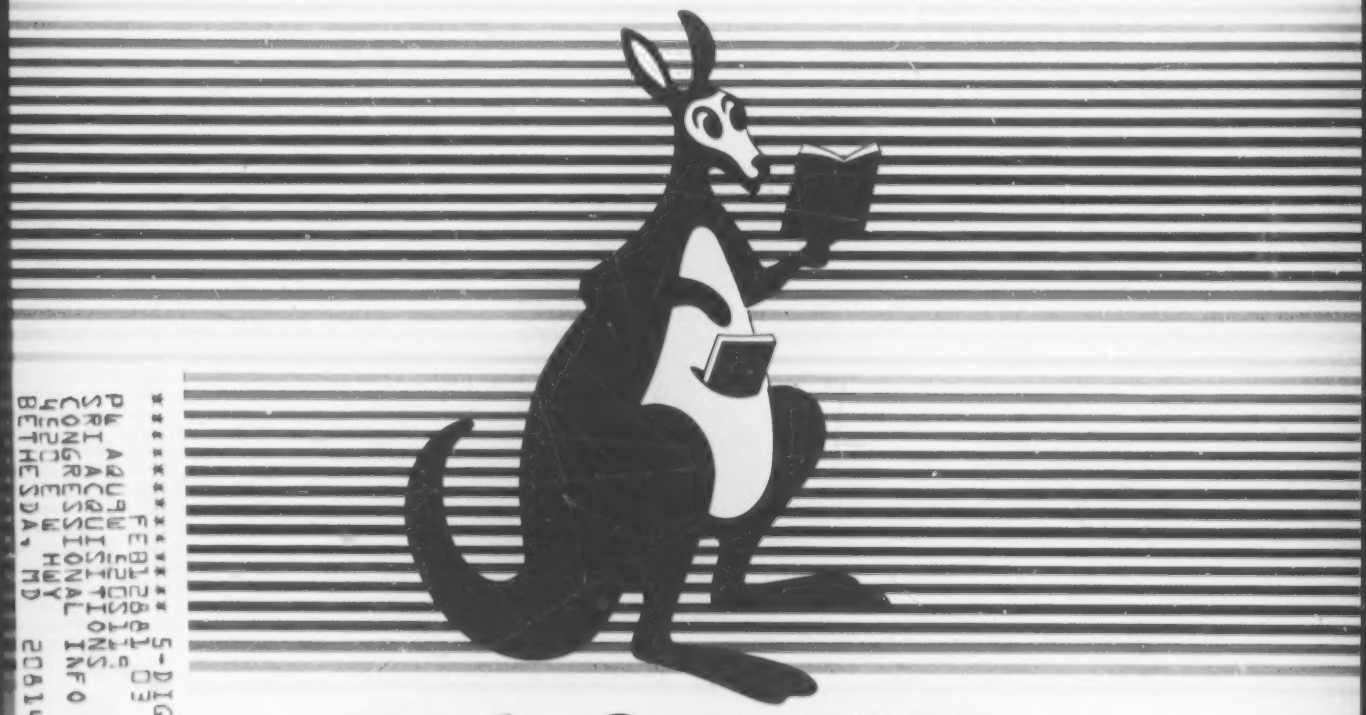

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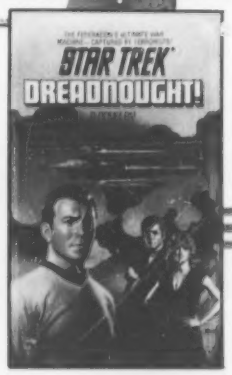

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Masson Loses Libel Suit Against 'New Yorker,' Malcolm and Knopf

Former Freud Archives director and author Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson lost his $10.2 million libel suit against the *New Yorker*, Janet Malcolm and Alfred A. Knopf when a federal judge in San Francisco ruled in favor of the defendants on August 17.

The magazine's December 1983 series of articles (later published by Knopf as *In the Freud Archives*) portrayed Masson as a "grandiose egotist and full of braggadocio." In a 27-page opinion, U.S. District Court Judge Eugene Lynch called these characterizations "either nondefamatory, substantially true or a rational interpretation of ambiguous conversations."

Lynch rejected eight claims alleging defamation against the defendants. Masson charged that Malcolm had misquoted and maligned him to the extent that he was publicly ridiculed and humiliated.

Charles W. Kenady, the *New Yorker*'s attorney in San Francisco, commented that the ruling "means there weren't any factual problems with the story."

Masson, who lives in Berkeley, Calif., and his attorney, Charles O. Morgan Jr., of San Francisco, said that they would appeal the decision.

Last summer Judge Lynch rejected four other libel claims in the same lawsuit. Morgan commented: "The decision didn't come as any great surprise to us. The judge had a negative attitude toward this case."

In *In the Freud Archives* Malcolm described how Masson, a former Sanskrit scholar, quickly rose to prominence in the field of psychoanalysis, eventually becoming director of the Freud Archives in London, which consists mainly of Sigmund Freud's letters.

But after a year heading the archives, he was fired and fell out of favor among psychoanalysts in large part because he claimed to have found evidence that Freud espoused a theory that women usually fantasized childhood sexual abuse while Freud knew that reports of child abuse against his patients were true. Masson claimed that Freud took the public stance in order to win support from his colleagues.

Masson, a lay psychoanalyst, chronicled his controversial findings in *The Assault on Truth: Freud's Suppression of the Seduction Theory*, published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Among the disputed sections of Malcolm's writing was one in which she quotes Masson describing himself as an "intellectual gigolo—you get your pleasure from him, but you don't take him out in public." Masson claimed he never made the statement.

That statement was not on any of the 26 tape cassettes submitted in evidence by Malcolm, but Judge Lynch ruled that it was a "rational interpretation" of Masson's comments and that it was supported by related statements on the tape that were also quoted verbatim in the article.

Commenting to *PW* about this issue, Masson said, "What Malcolm is saying is that she has read my unconscious and put quotes around my unconscious. That's not journalism, it's fiction or psychoanalysis." —MOLLY COLIN

AAP Sales Report for June

Category	% change, June	% change, YTD
Adult hardcover	-15.4	9.6
Adult paperback	2.2	17.2
Juvenile hardcover	28.5	21.3
Juvenile paperback	113.6	29.7
Univ. Pr. hardcover	1.3	6.0
Univ. Pr. paperback	8.4	20.4
Bibles, etc.	5.6	6.8
Mass market paperback	28.9	5.5
Book club	9.5	11.2
Mail order	1.1	1.2
Sci-tech	3.9	9.5
College texts	0.4	4.5
School texts	18.8	7.1

HBJ Has $70 Million Quarterly Loss, Plans to Sell Magazine Unit

In the first bottom-line indication of the cost of its successful repulsion of British publisher Robert Maxwell's takeover bid earlier this year, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich has announced that it suffered a net loss of $70.8 million in the second quarter.

In a related announcement, the company stated that it would sell its magazine unit to help reduce the amount of its debt, which jumped to more than $2.5 billion from $816.2 million as a result of the company's method of defending itself from Maxwell.

The magazine unit, called HBJ Publications, publishes special interest and trade magazines and is estimated to be worth up to $400 million. Its 107 magazines include *Beverage Industry*, *Physician's Management* and *Hotel and Motel Management*.

The quarterly loss, which came on sales and revenues of $408.7 million, was attributed in large part to a charge to income of $98,947,000 "of expenses relating to the recapitalization plan." The plan, the cornerstone of the company's takeover defense, included the offering to shareholders of $40 in cash and a new issue of preferred stock in exchange for 30 million shares outstanding as well as the buying back of up to six million of its own shares.

The company also noted an "extraordinary charge to income of $11,166,000 (net of taxes) from the open market repurchase and subsequent retirement of $18,815,000 of 6¾% Convertible Subordinated Debentures." In addition, the company took a pretax charge of slightly more than $15 million for the relocation of HBJ insurance operations to Orlando, Fla., from Battle Creek, Mich.

HBJ's sales and revenues rose 31% in the quarter and 35% in the six-month period. Publishing sales and revenues rose 29% to $221.1 million in the second quarter and 36% to $392.7 million in the six-month period. Publishing operating income dropped 73% to $3.6 million in the quarter and the operating loss for the six-month period grew to $29.2 million.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich
Three Months Ended June 30

	1987	1986
Sales	$408,699,000	$312,008,000
Income	(70,756,000)	10,916,000

Six Months Ended June 30

	1987	1986
Sales	$739,994,000	$547,043,000
Income	(98,452,000)	3,451,000